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Ald. Robert Bauman (414) 286-3774

Intermodal Station Role Earns Ald. Bauman Downtown Award

Alderman Demanded Design Changes and Upgrades That Helped Make Final Product
Dynamic

Milwaukee Ald. Bob Bauman's refusal to accept the initial design plans for the striking new downtown Intermodal Station facility has helped him win the Milwaukee Downtown (Business Improvement District #21) Cheerleader Award.

Ald. Bauman, who represents an area that includes downtown and the Historic Third Ward, will receive the award during Milwaukee Downtown's annual meeting tonight (Tuesday, March 25, 2008) at 6 p.m. in the Turner Hall second floor ballroom, 1034 N. 4th St. More than 300 downtown stakeholders have been invited to the event, including elected officials, representatives of civic and cultural organizations, property owners and independent business owners. Media coverage is encouraged.

When initial designs for the new Amtrak station on W. St. Paul Ave. were unveiled by architects working for the State of Wisconsin, Ald. Bauman raised immediate concerns regarding the quality and scope of the project, eventually bringing the issues to the attention of Mayor Tom Barrett and other officials, who helped convince state transportation officials to substantially upgrade the key gateway facility.

"The original design – unbelievably – included a drive-thru fast food restaurant, among its many flaws," said Ald. Bauman. "It was clear that this intermodal transportation facility was to be one of the first impressions of Milwaukee for thousands of visitors each year, and that it needed to be upgraded and made special, and that's what I fought for."

BID #21 is a downtown management district overseeing 120 blocks comprising 400 commercial property owners. The property owners voluntarily agree to be assessed to fund enhancements and to complement services provided by the city.